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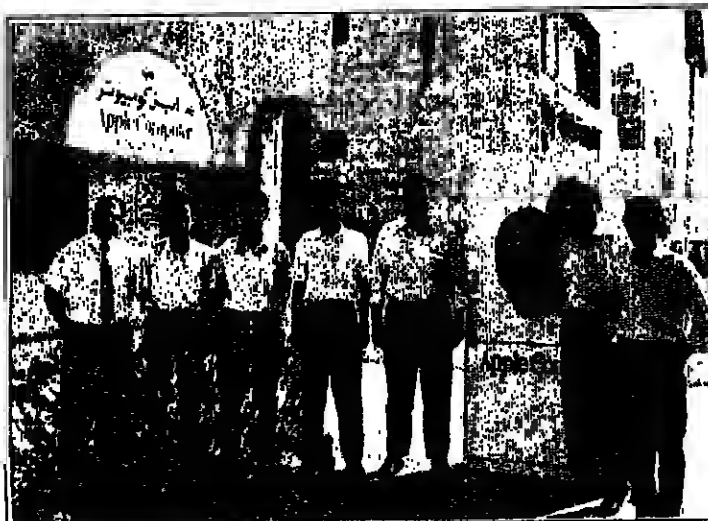
## Al-Muhasib Al-Mithali wins 4D Golden Award

A JORDANIAN-developed Arabic accounting package from Ideal Systems has been awarded a 4D Golden Award. Al-Muhasib Al-Mithali won the trophy in the Packaged Application category to be presented next Saturday, 10 October 1992, by ACI at the first International 4D Developers Conference.

Contenders had to present a stand-alone Macintosh application, compiled and packaged including full manuals. The judges looked for several criteria, among which were the interface, the completeness of the package and its originality. Al-Mithali stood out as an exceptional package since it was developed using the Arabic language which made it an even more complex task. When asked on her opinion of Al-Muhasib Al-Mithali, ACT's Chairperson, Marlene Delbourg-Delphis, said that it was the most most attractive and exciting accounting package she had ever seen.

"This award is a recognition of the hard work of the Ideal Software Development team," said Karim Kawa, general manager of Ideal Systems, who received the award on their behalf.

Many doubted the idea of Jordan developing applications that can compete with international standards. "Now we are confident that Jordan will play a strategic role in the region's software industry," said Mr. Kawa. Ideal Accountant is also available in English and could be localized into other languages as well. "We are certain that this will position



The Ideal Development team

Al-Mithali as the leading business application in the Middle East, where there is a thirst for well-rounded packages," he added.

Imad Malhas, the Ideal Development Manager, said that this was the first in a series. The Ideal Team are working on Al-Khazen Al-Mithali (Ideal Store), which will be a comprehensive business management tool and which will lead among the point-of-sale applications.

"It is a dream for a developer to have his application recognized on the international scene," explained Imad Malhas, upon being asked about what this award meant to him. "We hope that this will strengthen our momentum to produce a large number of applications that would serve the busi-

ness as well as the professional communities," he added.

Al-Mithali has proven to be a popular package and has been installed so far in several companies and institutions since its release back in May 1991.

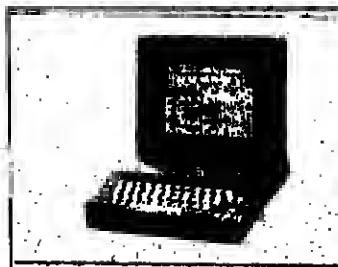
Ideal Systems are also offering to provide a free educational package of the product with self running demos especially for university labs. One copy has already been installed in the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences labs at the University of Jordan. The professors are using it for teaching purposes and the students are finding it a very useful and easy to learn application. ■

Z.N.

## New notebook computers from Dell

DELL COMPUTER Corporation have released a new line of notebook computers into the Middle Eastern computer market. The new Dell 320SLI notebook line runs on a small battery that works between three and five hours. It includes a 9.5 inch color LCD screen with 64 shades of grey.

Scientific and Medical Supplies Co. (SMS) has recently acquired the rights to distribute Dell products in Jordan, but are preparing for an official announcement. According to



SMS, the 320SLI notebooks will be available to Jordanian users as soon as they arrive along with a whole line of Dell products. ■

## Sakhr TrueType Arabic fonts

AS PART of its advanced project to Arabize Windows 3.1, Al Alamiah has finally prepared TrueType Arabic fonts. The fonts development team in Al Alamiah has succeeded in making its well-known Arabic quality fonts library in a TrueType format.

Sakhr TrueType Arabic fonts are scalable. They can be used in any required size with any output device regardless of its resolution. They can be displayed on screen or printed on any printers

such as dot matrix, ink jet or laser printers. Their outline design keeps the same clear typeface with different resolutions.

The size and shape of TrueType Arabic fonts on screen resemble their printed output. They give WYSIWYG effects, "what you see is what you get", on paper. It facilitates designing documents and publishing pages on screen.

Sakhr TrueType Arabic fonts keep Arabic writing characteristics. They use the original artistic

quality features of Arabic writing. They have the same distinguished design of Sakhr fonts library that makes Al Alamiah the best producer of high quality Arabic fonts for microcomputers.

The accomplishment of Sakhr TrueType Arabic fonts is an important event. It is a new addition to Al Alamiah's integrated set for Arabizing Windows 3.1 environment. It represents a new role in serving the needs of Arabic computer users. ■

## Public Domain rules O.K.?

IF YOU follow up on foreign computer magazines, then you probably have a slight idea about public domain (PD) and shareware disks being advertised for around £1.99 or \$2.50. Software is supposed to cost much more, isn't it?

What is public domain software anyway? Well, it's the kind of software that you are allowed, by law, to copy. It is written by hobbyists who either can't find a software house to publish it or think that it wouldn't be accepted in the first place.

The variety of software available as PD is shocking. You've got Word processing, database management, finance and business, Windows applications, graphics and CAD, games and leisure, utilities and others.

Let's start with shareware, which serves the very important purpose of offering you the chance to try out software before spending your money on it! It's a typical case of "try before you buy". First of all, you try the program, then if you decide you want to buy it, you "register" by sending the money to the author. Public Domain software on the other hand is actually free. It does not require any payment at all. Still, the author retains copyrights to the program. This means that you can swap it freely, but it's against the law to profit from selling it unless under license from the author. If you're starting to confuse this idea with software piracy, don't. Piracy is when you copy something expensive and sell it for much less. The real problem with PD is that some titles are so good and so helpful, whereas some are absolutely terrible and useless.

Alright, by now you're probably wondering if Jordanian programmers actually write PD software. Well, most of the PD in circulation is imported from the United States which probably has the biggest PD and shareware market in the world. We don't really develop our own PD. Small programs written to serve personal or dedicated purposes do appear, but aren't really distributed since there's usually a better imported program.

PD is so big in Europe that I recently came across a magazine that specializes in PD software (pictured here) which shows what a big industry it actually is. There are so many titles reviewed, 200 of them. This is probably the only magazine that offers full versions of the software it reviews for free on the cover disk. The magazine's slogan sums up all the excitement PD has generated in one single sentence: "The world of free software".

The best way to get PD is by connecting to a computer network which enables you to copy anything off it since computer bulletin boards and user networks usually include lots of PD. All you have to do is download them. Of course, you have to take into consideration the fee you'll pay for the call.

So why is it that some companies sell PD software? These companies only charge you the price of an empty disk and postage. Regrettably, we don't have this type of service in Jordan.

This point should stir up a few laughs among software salesmen in Jordan. As a result of large-scale piracy in the country, everything is selling cheap! Why bother about PD when you can get full-price software for the same amount from a pirate!

Still, it's worth keeping an eye on the PD and shareware scene with the possibility of a copyrights law in Jordan. Meanwhile, I suggest you seriously consider the potential of any small program of your own creation as a possible PD success. It could be the first of its kind in Jordan. Think about that. ■



# The Star

Jordan's political, economic  
and cultural weekly

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electric projects around  
the world on some of  
the world's most impor-  
tant rivers: the Da-  
nube, the Nile, the  
Yangtze, the Tigris and  
Euphrates.

Le Jourdain

Supplément au journal du Star

Pages 14 & 15

In this week's

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AMMAN (Star) — The number of fatal car accidents in Jordan reached 400 last year, 56 more than occurred in 1990. Injuries resulting surpassed 11,000, an increase of around 1000 from the previous year. Damages as a result of road accidents have been said to amount to JD\$3 million.

These and other shocking statistics were disclosed at a seminar this week by Mr Mohammad Dabbas, president of the Jordanian

Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents (JSPRA).

The vice president of the JSPRA commented that this figure made up around 2.3 per cent of Jordan's Gross National Product, which is double the figure of other Third World countries.

The one-day seminar discussed the topic of "The car and its effects on the environment". Mr Dabbas urged ministries working separately on safety issues to coordinate their efforts, providing a more systematic approach. "At the moment, there is no such

cooperation between the various governmental bodies dealing with motor safety concerns," said Mr Dabbas.

"Owning a car has turned from a dream into a nightmare," said Dieter Glade, director of the Goethe Institute. According to




Mr Glade, cars are destroying the environment, the country's beauty and are claiming human lives. He also mentioned the benefits of using unleaded fuel coupled with comprehensive road planning and larger pedestrian areas.

The seminar also discussed possible strategies for reducing pollution and road accidents, using new technology to reduce gas emission and the environmental impact of transport systems and policies.

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Expo '92

## Jordanian pavilion proves that size isn't everything

By Kate Daniels  
Star Staff Writer

JORDAN'S SUCCESS at this year's Universal Expo has proven one important point: That size isn't everything. Having finally wrapped up its six-month stint in the Spanish city of Seville this Monday, the Jordanian pavilion has made a proud and memorable exit.

Of the 110 countries that participated in the Expo, Jordan has been ranked by the Expo administration alongside industrial giant Japan in the "Best Exhibits" category. "Jordan proves that you don't have to be the largest or the wealthiest country to create an involving exhibit" reads the "Best of Expo" brochure, which awarded the pavilion four prestigious stars.

Described by the brochure as "a gem of a museum in a small space", the pavilion succeeded in efficiently utilizing only 400 square meters of floor space. Awarded as a gift from the Spanish government after initial plans failed due to lack of funds, the Jordanian pavilion ranked over and above its wealthier Arab neighbors.

"Despite the fact that it was small, it was well designed and elegantly displayed, and was all the work of Jordanian talent," said Mr Zeid Fareez, media coordinator for the Jordanian pavilion. "Jordan made a fantastic contribution to this grand exposition," he added. "While other countries displayed their technical knowledge, Jordan displayed its history and culture as well as its modern technology."

An estimated three million visited the pavilion, including some especially eminent personalities. Among them were Prince Hassan and Princess Sorayah, King Juan Carlos of Spain and Queen Sophia, Prince Muhammad and Princess Taghrid, Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia and Oman's Prince Faisal Ben Ali.

Visitors were invited to take an enchanting trail through Jordan's history, passing through a reconstruction of the city at Petra, onto a miniature Qasr Amra, through the urban beauty of Salt, emerging finally into the modern age. The "Best of Expo" brochure described it as "an impressive display of Jordanian history, life and technology."

Besides the historical richness of the exhibits on display, all visitors were treated to complimentary brochures, information packs, gifts of Dead Sea salt, commemorative stamps and bot-



The view from inside: Qasr Amra in miniature



King Juan Carlos of Spain pays a visit to the pavilion

ttled Jordan River water to take away to their respective countries.

The cultural activities, organized alongside the permanent exhibition, were also deemed a remarkable success. Most prominent were the two cultural weeks, the first of which was scheduled in May to mark Jordan's independence day, and which was patronized by Crown Prince Hassan.

The second successful cultural week, which kept Jordan in the limelight until the Expo had almost ended, coincided with the happy event of His Majesty King Hussein's return to Jordan after recovering from surgery.

An enormous celebration was held at the Patec Music Hall, with rousing performances given by the Royal Jordanian army band and folkloric troupe and the Armed Forces brass band. "It was a glamorous evening," said Mr Fareez. "Thousands of visitors to the Expo attended, as did many Jordanians living in Spain."

Throughout the course of the week there was a parade each night across the Expo site, creating such a stir that other countries quickly followed suit. The parades were augmented by nightly performances, where visitors danced to Jordanian music. Media coverage was unexpectedly high, with the happy activities being transmitted through networks and local TV stations.

"Thousands of journalists, cameramen and TV crews attended the pavilion," said Mr Fareez, "which gave us the chance to reflect Jordan's society, people and culture in the very best way."

An added attraction was the concert given by pianist Rula Nabeel, a long-time cultural ambassador to Jordan. Her accomplished playing drew the crowds in thick and fast to Seville's glorious opera house, the Salon de

Actos de Capitanía General.

Besides the fun and festivities, a number of intellectual activities were organized, bringing together some of the most prominent academics from both Jordanian and Spanish educational establishments.

Two such events were the seminar presented on "The history of the Andalus and prospects for Arab-Spanish co-operation" and the opening of a book fair exhibiting Jordanian books and publications about the Al-Andalus region. These were held at La Torre del La Calahorra (Al-Qal'at Al-Hurra) in the city of Cordoba.

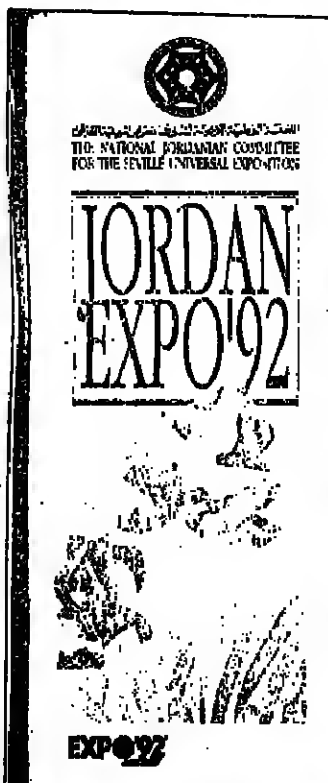
Distinguished representatives to the event included Dr Adnan Bakht, head of the Jordanian Pavilion's Cultural Committee, Dr Muzen Armouti, adviser to Prince Hassan and general commissioner of the Jordanian National Expo Committee, Dr Saleh Jarar of the University of Jordan and Dr Fayez Qaisi of Mu'tah University, both of whom are

specialists in Spanish culture and literature.

At the presentation of a study prepared by eminent academic Professor Roger Garoudi, Dr Adnan Bakht delivered a speech in which he put stress on the continuation of the Euro-Arab dialogue, the subject of which Crown Prince Hassan has been expounding for many years now.

Jordan's presence at the Expo created a feeling of empathy between the Jordanian and Spanish sides, due to the importance of Spain as the "meeting point" between the European and Arab civilizations. In turn, Jordan's own strategic importance regarding its geographical and cultural position has meant that it now plays a special role in the interaction between East and West.

The value of the Jordanian pavilion in Seville was that, in the words of Crown Prince Hassan, it served to "activate the cultural interaction between the Arab and European civilizations."



### U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMODITY IMPORT PROGRAM (CIP) ATTENTION: PRIVATE SECTOR IMPORTERS AND LOCAL BANKS

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# Government battles with grim unemployment rate

By Vesna Masharqa  
Special to The Star

RECENTLY ISSUED statistics challenging the Ministry of Labor's unemployment figures claim that the total number of Jordan's registered unemployed is in fact lower than was previously thought, but is nonetheless set to rise.

Despite the fact that not all jobless Jordanians are registered on the files of the Manpower Center, the current estimate of the International Study Center at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) is that by the end of 1991, the percentage of those unemployed stood at 14.4 per cent of the labor force. This positively contradicts the

Labor Ministry's figure of 18.9 per cent, based on 128,000 registered unemployed persons.

But the good news ends here. The RSS field study, which was conducted and supervised by Dr Mohammad Amireh using a sample of 12,968 Jordanian families, predicted a rise in unemployment figures to an estimated 15.2 per cent by 1995. It also gave statistics revealing that 88.5 per cent of unemployed individuals suffered emotional stress and 24 per cent from physical illness.

"We have reports from the police that show that 31.5 per cent of criminals are unemployed citizens, and 32.2 per cent of suicide victims were also unemployed," Dr Amireh told The Star. He

added that the government should continue to search for constructive solutions towards solving the unemployment problem.

Governmental efforts towards absorbing the unemployed so far have included the allocation of 6239 new posts in its institutions; it also plans to recruit a further 8000 by the end of the year. According to the Civil Service Commission, 82,000 job applications had been received for the posts by the end of August, comprising 25,000 university graduates, 47,000 college graduates and 10,000 of *lawlhi* level and below.

A further measure taken by the government towards relieving the current situation has been its in-

creased support for the private sector. This has resulted in the setting up of around 5700 new, private economic and trade projects since November of last year. The Chamber of Commerce has pronounced this figure as "a record".

A new institution has also been formed aimed at neutralizing the obstacles that impede social and economic development. Through cooperation with ministers concerned, the Economic Consultancy Council has implemented a program which emphasizes coordination between the public and private sectors, dealing with investments, imports, customs fees, taxes, administrative and

procedural matters.

Such measures have already had a positive effect on certain areas, notably within the booming construction and consumer industries. New houses, shops, schools, private hospitals and industrial enterprises are springing up across the country. Jordan's 15,550 industrial institutions currently operate under full capacity and employ some 90,000 people.

Non-governmental institutions, such as the Industrial Development Bank, have also made a worthwhile contribution by financing development schemes and small industries, and by offering a special consultancy regarding the mechanisms of industrial development.

Another aspect of governmental initiatives towards solving the unemployment problem has been its urge to all governmental departments, public and private institutions to coordinate their recruitment plans with the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC), which aims to provide training for unemployed citizens. By the end of 1991, VTC programs will have trained up to 14,000 persons, while also giving special attention to young, unskilled male returnees, training them and helping them find employment.

On the academic level, the government has also appealed to Jordanian universities to adjust their programs to the requirements of the present job market. Special efforts have also been made to encourage unemployed citizens to fill blue-collar posts, with a view to easing unemployment among university and college graduates, the latter of whom represent the highest unemployment group with a rate of 27.1 per cent.

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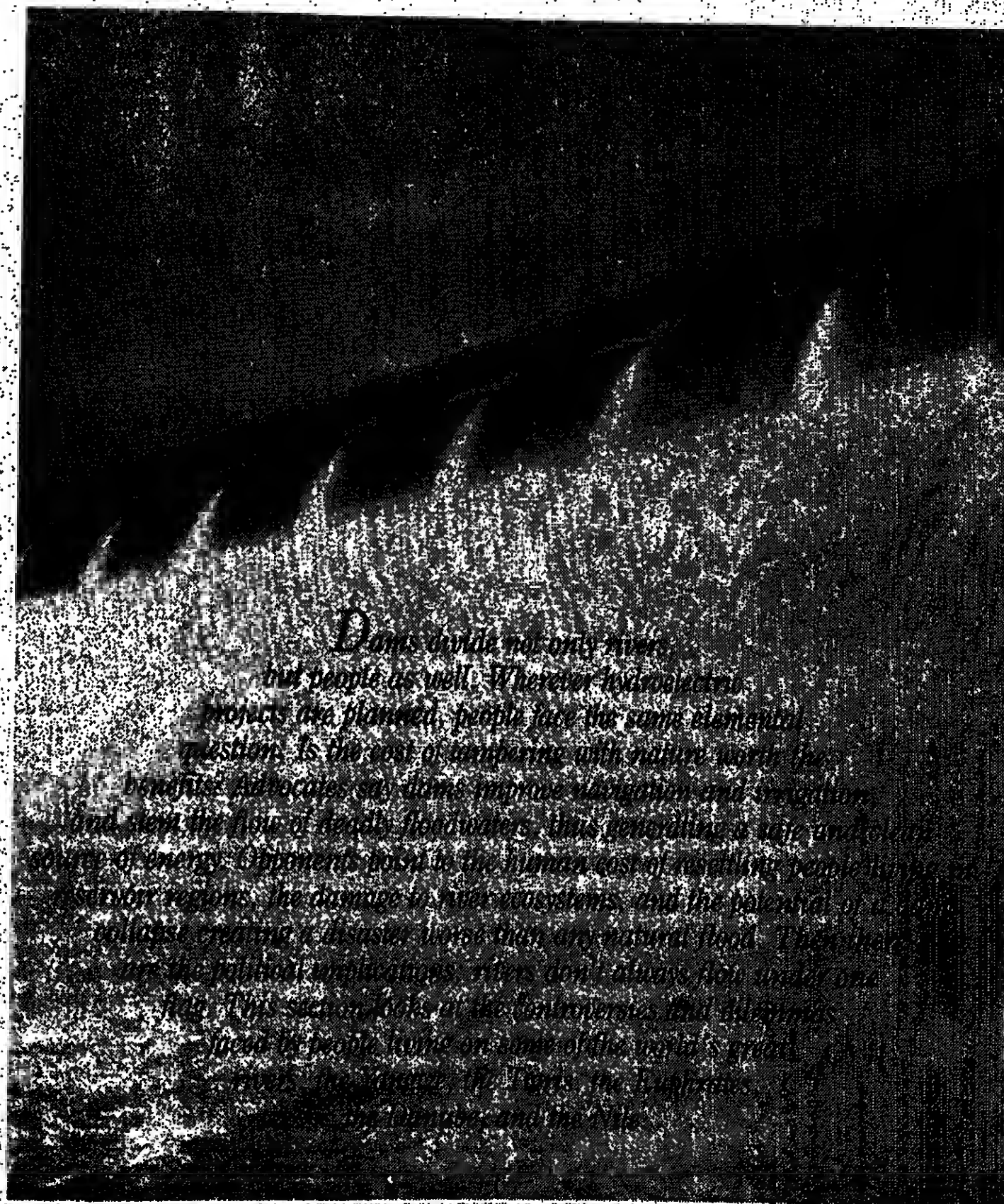
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# The World Paper

October  
1992 / 11

CONCRETE DILEMMAS



## Big dams, big doubts



## BIG DAMS, BIG DOUBTS

# China's colossal gamble on the Yangtze

Beijing plans world's largest dam, politicians and experts are divided

BY ZHAO HONG  
in Beijing, PRC

EARLIER THIS year, the National People's Congress, the supreme legislative body of the People's Republic of China, gave the official go-ahead for the construction of the world's largest hydroelectric dam on the Yangtze River.

The damming of the Yangtze, known as the Three Gorges Project, is China's longest-running public works controversy. Ever since plans for the massive project were initiated 36 years ago under Chairman Mao, the project has gone through eras of strong and weak approval—and dissent. Despite the recent go-ahead, there is no set date for the start of construction, giving opponents more time to delay the controversial project.

The project calls for a huge dam to be constructed about halfway up the 6,300 kilometer Yangtze River, China's longest river and the third-longest in the world. The Yangtze begins in the Tibetan Highlands and flows through central China into the East China Sea at Shanghai. The river flows through China's most populated regions and its fertile middle basin is the country's most productive agricultural land.

The proposed dam will cost billions of dollars, submerge thousands of hectares of farmland, and force the resettlement of more than one million people.

The project's planners claim the dam will prevent flooding along the highly populated lower reaches, generate much-needed power for eastern China, and aid navigation and irrigation. Opponents claim it will be too expensive, force the resettlement of too many people, and hinder rather than help navigation on the river.

Other opponents, such as Lu Qinkan, Zhao Hong is an associate editor of Xinhua, the New China News Agency, the official news agency of China.

## Tolls of the floods

Chinese rivers' tragic history

Date	Location	Deaths
1991	Eastern and central China	847
1982	Guangdong	430
1981	Sichuan, Hubei Province	1,300
1981	Northern China	550
1951	Manchuria	1,800
1939	Northern China	200,000
1931	Huang He River	3,700,000
1911	Chang Jiang River	100,000
1887	Huang He River	900,000
1642	Central China	300,000

78, a water conservancy expert, question the dam's ability to prevent major flood damage: "The dam will only reduce by half the damage inflicted upon farmlands by a major flood such as 1954's, which submerged 3.17 million hectares and affected 18.88 million people in the middle and lower reaches. If the flood starts from well upstream, the dam will keep sediments from flowing freely downstream and will threaten the city of Chongqing in the upper reaches."

Yang Yi, 69, senior engineer and official head of the project, believes the chances of Chongqing being flooded are very small. While he agrees that the river near Chongqing will be silted, this

water level behind the dam will allow 10,000-ton vessels to easily sail up and down the river. Now only 3,000-ton ships are able to ply the river because of shallows in the middle reaches. With the new dam, annual shipping along the river, say proponents, would increase to 50 million tons from the present three million tons.

But there are doubts about this claim as well. Li Rui, 75, another major opponent of the project, contends that the dam will cause sedimentation to build up in the waters behind the dam and form shallows in the middle and upper reaches of the Yangtze. According to Li, 600 million tons of sediment rushes

## Major dams of the world

The Three Gorges Project is supposed to top them all

World's highest dams		World's largest capacity manmade reservoirs	
Name	Height above lowest formation (meters)	Name	Capacity in cubic meters x 1,000
Rogun (CIS)*	335	Owen Falls (Uganda)	204,800
Nurek (CIS)	300	Bratsk (CIS)	169,000
Grand Ouenne (Switzerland)	285	Aswan High (Egypt)	162,000
Inguri (CIS)	272	Kariba (Zimbabwe/Zambia)	160,368
Chicoasen (Mexico)	261	Alosomho (Ghana)	147,960
Tshri (India)*	261	Daniel Johnson (Canada)	141,851
Kishau (India)*	253	Guri (Venezuela)	135,000
Ertan (PRC)	245	Krasnoyarsk (CIS)	73,300
Sayano-Shushensk (CIS)*	245	WAG Bennett (Canada)	70,309
Guavio (Colombia)*	243	Zeja (CIS)	68,400

\*Under construction

SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON LARGE DAMS, 1991

"does not necessarily mean that water will rise in proportion at Chongqing (since) large areas of land around the new dam in the middle reaches will be submerged, holding much of the water there."

"The sand and mud silting the upper reaches in the first several scores of years will gradually flow to the lower reaches, and in 100 years there will be a good balance between sedimentation and scouring."

Yang believes the dam will be effective at preventing floods in the middle and lower reaches below the dam "from once in 10 years to once in 100 years." Since 1860, the Jingjiang area in the middle reaches of the Yangtze has been hit eight times by major floods. Farmers there have to spend two-thirds of their work days each year reinforcing the Jingjiang Dam, a much smaller and weaker dam located lower than the proposed Three Gorges Project. Yang believes if this dam bursts, "many of the cities and villages in the more developed lower reaches will be under water."

Advocates of the Three Gorges Project say the dam also will improve navigation along the Yangtze since a higher

down the Yangtze River every year, making it the fourth most silted river in the world.

In addition, says Li, former vice minister of water conservancy, possible landlides along the banks of the Three Gorges "area could bring navigation to a complete stop. It happened twice in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and stopped shipping for several decades, he says."

Li was persecuted in the 1950s as a "rightist opportunist" and one of the charges against him was his opposition to the project. He was not rehabilitated until 1979, and he has never changed his position on the project. He dismisses the assumption that disputes over the project are between government and dissidents or between conservatives and reformists. Li says that opposition views have not been given enough coverage by the press.

Other experts worry about the dam's effect on the flow of river traffic. The new dam would create a water level difference of 100 meters and ships would have to pass through a five-lock channel to pass the dam. It is believed it would take at least four to five hours



Longtime opponent Li

for each ship to pass through the locks, and during the busy season this would cause a traffic jam of ships waiting for passage.

But proponents believe there are larger issues at stake. At capacity, the hydroelectric energy generated by the Three Gorges dam would save the burning of 40 million tons of coal each year. The dam would not only be a major source of energy for power-hungry, industrialized east China, but also prevent air pollution.

Opponents believe there is another environmental cost to be considered. A total of 23,800 hectares of farmland and 4,933 hectares of orange groves will be flooded and lost to the project, not to mention the beauty of the river area to be submerged.

Senior engineer Yang says there are always two sides to everything, but he thinks the pros outweigh the cons in the construction of the dam. "The counties to be submerged are in less developed areas and most people there welcome the resettlement scheme," he says. According to Yang, the displaced will move back from the adjacent river areas to where land will be prepared for growing, and houses will be built. In addition, the establishment of new factories and service industries are included in the resettlement plan.

Li Rui argues that it is almost impossible to economically or easily resettle 1.6 million people. It is estimated that the government will pay a total of US\$3.5 billion to displaced households. Many experts doubt that amount will be sufficient. Li believes the overall cost of the entire project will be too high—\$28.5 billion without including the interest on loans. And since it will take an estimated 18 years before the Three Gorges Project yields any of the expected economic benefits, says Li, it will be a heavy financial burden on the state for a long time. "It is simply not in the state's financial capability to bear the load," he says.

"Nobody can speak for the state," says Yang. "If the government decides to go ahead with the project, it must have ways to raise funds."

A trial resettlement process has begun and this year the government will spend more than \$22 million on moving people. While advocates look forward to this first step of the project, opponents will continue to try and persuade senior state leaders to at least postpone the project until the next century.

## BIG DAMS, BIG DOUBTS

# James Bay, second round

Opposition takes lead in Canada's dam debate

BY RANDY BOSWELL  
in Ottawa, Canada

IN 1885, THE completion of a transcontinental railway became the symbol of national unity in Canada, then a fledgling confederation of former British colonies astrung across North America.

A century later, the second phase of another construction mega-project, the massive James Bay hydroelectric development in the province of Quebec, generates images of environmental destruction and the threat of inflaming the separatist controversy in Quebec.

In Canada, a railroad is never just a railroad, nor a dam just a dam. James Bay II is the sequel to a mammoth public works venture which has already created the world's largest hydroelectric development, a 10,000 megawatt series of dams, reservoirs and powerhouses along the La Grande River in northern Quebec. Built between 1972 and 1985 and named for the bay at the mouth of the La Grande, James Bay I foreshadowed the promise—and peril—of the current project, scheduled for construction between 1993 and the year 2000.

Harnessing power from the watershed of the Great Whale River, James Bay II is expected to generate more than 3,000 megawatts of electricity and feed into a US\$40 billion energy export bonanza for Quebec. Plans call for the construction of five dams, three powerhouses and 133 dikes at a cost of \$13.1 billion.

The province hopes the project will attract investment with the lure of cheap electricity, create jobs, and generally fuel its economy. But James Bay II will also flood about 5,000 square kilometers of wilderness, threatening the water fowl, caribou and other wildlife which inhabit the ecosystem encompassed by the Great Whale river system.

The development also threatens the communities of more than 10,000 Cree and Inuit people, the heirs to an indigenous culture at least 5,000 years old. Environmentalists and native leaders fought the first James Bay project because of predicted damage to the land and people of northern Quebec. In the end, they won some concessions, including a \$225 million, 25-year compensation package for Cree people whose settlements and hunting grounds were destroyed by the hydro development.

This time around, opposition groups throughout Canada and the northeastern US—a key market for the export of James Bay power—are lobbying to stop the Great Whale development. They've launched a public relations assault on Quebec's plans, including benefit concerts in New York ("Ban the

Randy Boswell is a writer living in Ottawa.

Dam Jam") and demonstrations throughout the US and Canada. Their efforts have already hurt the project.

In 1989, a large US electric company, the Central Maine Power Company, canceled its \$14 billion export contract with Hydro Quebec (the publicly-owned utility administering the James Bay projects) in large part because of pressure from US environmental and indigenous peoples rights groups.

And in March of this year, Hydro Quebec lost a \$17 billion contract with the New York Power Authority (NYPA).



A James Bay giant turbine: More to come or a dying breed?

The New York cancellation was a major blow to Quebec's hydroelectric plans since the decision by the NYPA was linked to new energy supplies created by conservation strategies—the bane of large energy projects.

Opposition groups are also succeeding in putting the financial squeeze on Hydro Quebec itself, already struggling to cope with its massive commitment to northern power. Bending to pressure from anti-James Bay activists, the Massachusetts state assembly is considering legislation which would prohibit its employees' pension funds from being invested in Hydro Quebec.

It's a trend that has opponents to James Bay II, like Cree leader Matthew Coon Come, confident that the Great Whale dams will never be built.

"The way we've presented our case has shown people that our struggle is their struggle, that our fight is their fight," he said in a recent interview. "There seems to be a momentum, and we're part of it—confronting multinational corporations, a giant like Hydro Quebec and a government obsessed with building dams."

International pressure is mounting against the project. The New York City-based National Audubon Society reported in 1989 that the hydroelectric megaproject would threaten many species, "possibly even to extinction." And this year, the International Water Tribunal, an Amsterdam-based dispute forum, urged a halt to further development in northern Quebec until the impact on environment and local communities is fully assessed.

The canceled US contracts, a spate of court challenges, and the manditory federal hearings to assess the environmental impact and the cultural implications for native people are expected to delay construction of the power project beyond its scheduled 1993 start date.

But a fact underlying these controversies is that Quebec—homeland for Canada's eight million French-speaking citizens—has been poised for nearly two decades to break its ties with the predominantly English-speaking country and become an independent state.

In the current round of wrangling over Canada's ever-fragile federal constitution, Quebec is seeking to strengthen provincial control over natural resources, energy and environment, and has remained cool to granting concessions to native peoples on land issues.

A debate has flared up over whether the lands around James Bay would, in fact, be legally part of an independent Quebec because of outstanding native peoples' land claims and an unfulfilled 1912 treaty.

Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa has been the political and spiritual force behind hydroelectric development in the James Bay region. In his 1985 book *Power from the North*, Bourassa hailed his James Bay power scheme as the "project of the century" and tied its fate to the economic and political aspirations of the province.

The plan outlined in Bourassa's hydro manifesto anticipates development well beyond the Great Whale project, including a second phase of the La Grande project now nearly complete, and a scheme to divert the flow of the Notaway Broadback Rupert River complex south of the La Grande River.

Fully realized, Bourassa's James Bay hydroelectric development could affect an area of 350,000 square kilometers (equal in size to unified Germany), divert the flow of 20 major rivers, and flood an area of 23,000 square kilometers (nearly the size of Lake Erie). It would produce 27,000 megawatts of electricity (enough for all of Quebec at peak demand), an estimated 62,000 jobs for construction and maintenance, and a constant flow of export revenues estimated at more than \$1 billion a year for decades to come.

"Quebec is a vast hydroelectric plant-in-the-bud," Bourassa wrote. "Every day, millions of potential kilowatt-hours flow downhill and out to sea. What a waste!"

But another waste would be for the project to go ahead without a careful evaluation of the long-term impact of such a massive project on the environmental, political, and economic future of Canada.

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## BIG DAMS, BIG DOUBTS

# The Danubian two-step

## East European tempers flare over joint project

BY PETER FRIDNER  
in Bratislava, Slovakia

A BITTER DISPUTE over the completion of a joint Czechoslovak-Hungarian dam and hydroelectric project on the Danube overshadows relations between the two countries and is a harbinger of

rising tensions between neighbors in Eastern Europe.

Hungary and Czechoslovakia signed a treaty in 1977 for joint construction of the complex, known as the Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros Danube River System. The main purpose of the project was to aid navigation along the common Czechoslovak-Hungarian stretch of the Danube,

the most difficult-to-navigate stretch of the river. The plan also provided for the construction of hydroelectric and dam facilities which would protect a wide area along the border known for numerous disastrous floods.

The 1977 treaty called for the construction of a hydroelectric facility near the village of Gabčíkovo in southern Slovakia, and another facility at Nagymaros in northern Hungary that would primarily form the downstream water control part of the system.

In early 1989, strong opposition to the Nagymaros project arose in Hungary. The opposition was led by environmentalists who later became leading politi-

cians in post-Communist Budapest. The connection is no coincidence. Opposition to Nagymaros became a rallying point for the upheaval that brought down communism in Hungary later that year.

The trouble began in 1977 when the treaty was signed between two Communist governments, neither of which took the trouble to form a public consensus before approving the project. Hungarian authorities actively worked to suppress any criticism of the project by environmentalists.

The sheer size of the project guaranteed some damage to the environment, such as destruction of prime forest and river ecosystems near the construction sites. Nearly 106 million cubic meters of earth would have to be removed, an amount equal to all the earth removed in dam-building projects in Slovakia in 33 years.

In May of 1989, Communist authorities began to bend to popular pressure as their political position began to disintegrate and, claiming possible disastrous effects to the environment, ordered a temporary halt in construction of their site (which was in the initial stages of construction).

Czechoslovak authorities were immediately outraged, especially since their site was almost 70 percent complete at the time of Hungary's "temporary" halt. The Czechoslovak government vigorously protested, demanding that some form of compensation would have to be paid to Prague if Hungary refused to honor the treaty. In October, with the official dissolution of the Hungarian Communist Party, the temporary stop turned into a permanent halt.

Since then, the debate has grown rancorous. In April 1991, the Hungarian Parliament passed a resolution prohibiting Budapest representatives from taking part in any further talks unless they concerned the dissolution of the treaty. Deputies in the Hungarian Parliament have called for returning the Nagymaros site to its original condition.

The dispute entered a new phase when Czechoslovak authorities decided to begin an alternative "temporary" project, built on Slovak territory, just 10 kilometers upstream from the Hungarian site. The Hungarians reacted angrily, depicting the new construction as not only a violation of the treaty, but also a violation of territorial integrity. Prague authorities have said that they have acted only to reverse the damage to their site caused by Hungary's work stoppage.

The final salvo in the dispute was fired by Hungary when it failed to send representatives to a conference convened in Vienna by European Community authorities trying to bring about a resolution to the conflict.

Construction on the new Gabčíkovo site continues and Hungary has announced its intention to take their case to the World Court to block any further construction along the Danube.

Peter Fridner is a foreign affairs commentator for the independent, Bratislava-based daily *Narodna obroda*.

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Môžu sa aj stredoeurópske krajiny stať "tigrami"?



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## BIG DAMS, BIG DOUBTS

# A few too many flags

## on Tigris and Euphrates

### Turkish hydroelectric plans worry Iraq, Syria

BY HALDUN ARMAGAN  
in Ankara, Turkey

IN THE Middle East, natural resources and national ambitions are often on a collision course. Turkey's plans for a massive series of dams on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, the two most important rivers that flow from Turkey through Iraq and Syria, have set the stage for political conflict in a region where water is as precious as oil.

When Turkey inaugurated the giant Atatürk Dam on the Euphrates River in July, attendees included President Turgut Ozal, Prime Minister Süleyman Demirel, and representatives from Arab countries and Turkic-speaking republics of the former Soviet Union. Also present was Syria's minister of irrigation, whose attendance was a sign of his country's concern.

The Atatürk Dam (named after Turkey's modern founder) is a key component of a much larger scheme called the Southeastern Anatolia Project. It is the largest hydroelectric project on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers and one of the largest in the world.

The Euphrates is one of the most important rivers in the Middle East. It begins in central Turkey, like the Tigris, and flows through Syria and Iraq where it joins the Tigris to form the Shatt al Arab waterway, which flows into the Persian Gulf. The Tigris forms the border between Turkey, Syria and Iraq and flows through Iraq, becoming its major waterway and upon which Baghdad is situated.

The Southeastern Anatolia Project will incorporate a network of 22 dams and 19 hydroelectric stations throughout eight provinces bordering Syria and Iraq. The project will put 1.7 million hectares of land under irrigation and create more than three million jobs. The total cost of the project is estimated at US\$25 billion.

Iraq and Syria have both made it clear that they are gravely concerned about the effect of the project on their access to Tigris and Euphrates water.

Their fears were probably not assuaged by comments made by Prime Minister Demirel at the inauguration of the Atatürk. He said that water was a natural resource, and just as Turkey did not have any claims on its neighbor's oil, any interference with Turkey's hydroelectric plans was unacceptable.

Turkey has stated in the past that it would not use its control of the headwaters of the Tigris and Euphrates as a

trump card in international affairs. But leaders in Syria and Iraq must know that it is at the very least a possibility.

In any case, Turkey has at least tried to use water as a tool for its benefit. Five years ago, Turkey proposed to supply fresh water to Arab countries in return

for oil. Pipelines carrying water going south and oil going north would link Turkey with Syria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq and Kuwait. The pipelines would carry water from southern Turkey. Arab countries have remained cool to the plan.

Turkey may have more success using water rights to influence Syria regarding thorny security issues. Turkey has accused Syria of providing shelter and training facilities to the PKK, the separatist Turkish-Kurdish rebel group that Turkey calls a terrorist organization. Despite a security treaty between Turkey and Syria signed several months before the inauguration of the Atatürk Dam, suspicions remain that PKK

campers are still operating in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in Lebanon.

Shortly after the Atatürk inauguration, Turkey's Foreign Minister Hikmet Çetin traveled to Syria to discuss water-security issues. After two days of official talks, Syria agreed to cooperate with Turkey on helping to stop PKK activities and Turkey agreed to honor a 1987 treaty which set a bottom limit to the amount of water Turkey allows to flow into Syria and Iraq.

Despite this, the talk in diplomatic circles is not optimistic. The massive Southeastern Anatolia Project is progressing and upon completion Syria and Iraq will be even more painfully aware of their dependence on Turkish waters.

Big day at the Aswan High Dam. Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny (left) and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat (far right) at the inauguration in 1971.



## The concrete jewel of the Nile

From hindsight, Egyptians sing the praises of the Aswan Dam

THE ASWAN High Dam in Egypt is more than 20 years old, but only now are the controversies subsiding, with critics agreeing that the positive effects of the dam far outweigh the negative consequences.

"It was a matter of life and death," says engineer M. Shalaby, who worked on the dam in the 1960s for the Egyptian government. "The possible negative effects are nothing compared to the people who would have lost their lives if there had been a drought."

For thousands of years the Egyptians have tried to control the Nile River, to make better use of its water in a struggle for a better life. Even during pharaonic times, reservoirs and depressions were built to provide irrigation water during droughts.

When government officials began planning the Aswan High Dam in the late 1940s, little did they know that it would become the focal point of tension during one of the hottest periods of the Cold War.

Originally, the Egyptian govern-

ment solicited the help of Western countries, including the US, Britain and France, to design the dam and obtain an agreement from the World Bank for funding.

But in 1956, the Western countries and the World Bank pulled out of the project after Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser's government showed sympathy toward communist Eastern Bloc countries and sharply criticized the Western-backed Baghdad Pact, a plan for the military defense of the Middle East.

In a surprise move, Nasser nationalized the privately owned Suez Canal to pay for the High Dam project. As a result, Egypt fought off an invasion by Israeli, British and French troops in what became known as the Suez War.

The Soviet Union agreed to assist in construction of the High Dam in 1958, although the dam had already been nearly completely redesigned by Western countries. The dam was completed in 1970, shortly before the death of Nasser.

The dam increased agricultural

production tenfold and its generators provide 60 percent of the country's electricity. Many of the anticipated problems with the dam never materialized, according to Shalaby.

As for the loss of the sardine-fishing industry in the Mediterranean because of the dam's interference with the nutrient-rich silt, Shalaby says: "We may have lost the sardine fishing, but we gained tons of the best fish in Egypt from the reservoir."

More than 50,000 displaced people were relocated by the government when Lake Nasser submerged their villages, and critics say their lost culture can never be replaced.

Despite the drawbacks, the government officials say that if they had to do it all over, they would build the dam again. "Can you imagine the consequences of ten years of drought in Egypt?" asks Essam Radi, minister of irrigation and land reclamation. "You would have 10 percent of the people dying. I can't imagine it. Without the dam, you would still have people living in villages using candles for light. Now you go to villages and there is electricity. These are the types of social consequences that you cannot measure in financial terms."

—By Scott Harney in Cairo



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## LETTERS

## Drumming to a different tune

I have just read WorldDiary in the July 1992 issue ("Providing Capitalism the Rope"). Well said. Ever since Fukuyama's hopelessly idealistic praise of the "end of history," I've been wondering when the spotlight would be put on capitalism and if we would ever hear any serious analyses. Keep beating the drums—complacency is the death drug.

Sandra Gotham Meehan  
New York, USA

## Speaking in tongues

At the UN Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro last June, incredible amounts of money were spent facilitating communication between the delegates. Likewise, 60 percent of UNESCO's administrative budget is used to cover translation costs. Billions of dollars are spent every year on translation. And then there are the higher, hidden costs: the misunderstandings, frustrations and fears caused by poor communication.

Thinking globally, the lack of a universal communication system is a form of censorship, a denial of free speech. What is surprising is that most of humanity seems unable or unwilling to make any large-scale effort to address this problem. How long must we wait before the problem of language barriers is addressed at a world conference?

It is true that there have been numerous attempts to develop a global second language. Esperanto is probably the best known example. There also have been attempts to use existing languages such as English as a universal language. Yet English gives unfair advantage to the native speaker.

It is regrettable that a start was not made 75 years ago. By now speakers of a global second language would be able to work together worldwide without incurring the high price and hidden costs of translation.

Ewan D. Boyd  
Vancouver, Canada

## Beyond the official version

It seems outside of your usual evenhandedness to use an article by Sumono Mustofa, editor of the official news service of Indonesia ("Indonesia becomes a player" July 1992). Under Suharto he does not dare write any adverse information concerning his country.

There is no question about Indonesia's economic progress. But what about human rights? What about the massive destruction of the rainforest in Borneo and the cruel treatment of indigenous people in Irian Jaya?

How does one gauge productivity and economic health? I believe that Indonesia is exhausting its natural resource capital by failing to include its value as a cost.

Please take another look, this time with a wider lens.

Frederic B. Vaux  
Wellesley Hills, USA

## WORLD DIARY

## Swords to ploughshares and satellites

BY CROCKER SNOW, JR.

In the twilight years of the Cold War, those 1980s gladiators, Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev, sheathed their swords and began to sermonize about how real Russian-American cooperation could work for the betterment of each country and the world.

Two unlikely, unexpected and largely unpublicized Russian-American initiatives, one earthly and one in the heavens, illustrate the realities supporting this rhetoric.

An agreement in principle reached in September between Washington and Moscow for the US to purchase from Russia 500 metric tons of enriched uranium over a 15- to 20-year period is the kind of practical synergy that all too rarely occurs.

The deal represents a true win-win proposition. The weapons-grade Russian uranium will be "diluted" into lower-grade uranium for fueling American nuclear power plants. Russians win by earning precious hard currency, a percentage of which will be earmarked for cleaning up what is now acknowledged to be a horrific nuclear waste problem in such hitherto super-secret sites as Chelyabinsk-70 in the Ural Mountains.

The Americans win by buying a quantity of enriched uranium slightly cheaper and certainly safer than mining and enriching an equal amount at home. The world wins because this is all a part of the nuclear disarmament process, with nuclear swords indeed being recast into atomic energy plowshares.

"Instead of a nuclear fire storm, we will have a nuclear fire sale," rhapsodized the often sardonic *New York Times* in an editorial. "What a wonderful way for America to help Russia, and America—and the world."

The plan was hatched a scant ten months ago by a physicist from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology,

Dr. Thomas Neff, and quickly seized upon by Washington. Curiously, US President George Bush is being unduly modest, almost diffident, in taking credit for the deal, or in even promoting it. Apparently fearful of being seen by American voters as too preoccupied with international affairs over domestic ones, the White House issued only a single-page statement and background. While he continues to reiterate variations on his



The "life" in SatelLife.

family values theme, the president has yet to speak of the uranium deal publicly.

No politician can take credit for another unusual and invaluable Russian-American initiative. It is the result of the work of Russian and American physicians with a yen to make their medical knowledge base available to those in underdeveloped parts of the world, especially Africa.

A project known as SatelLife makes use of a micro-satellite the size of a beach ball that has been put into low-earth orbit and fed the latest medical articles and information about major Third World maladies like polio, AIDS, malaria and smallpox.

Doctors and medical facilities in medically isolated countries can access the in-

formation from the satellite through an inexpensive information retrieval system.

The idea was launched in 1989 by a cadre of American and Russian physicians who had originally bonded during the height of the Cold War as the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW). A high-octane group, the IPPNW was awarded the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts in tempering nuclear weapons research. In need of a fresh raison d'être and troubled by continued funding of Star Wars in the post-Cold War era, they saw space as an arena for more socially beneficial causes.

Starting from its bilateral heritage, SatelLife has quickly become a truly international enterprise. The 110-pound micro-satellite featuring what's called a "store and forward" capacity was built at the University of Surrey in England and launched as part of the European Ariane program. The medical information stored in the satellite comes not only from such prestigious English-language medical sources as *The New England Journal of Medicine*, but also in Portuguese from the Oswaldo Cruz Institute in Rio de Janeiro, and from Moscow. And the beneficiaries are doctors and their patients in Tanzania, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, the Congo, Ghana and Uganda.

SatelLife is a not-for-profit enterprise. The primary funding so far has come from a Japanese computer company, the NEC Corporation. Happily, cost is not a big factor in its effectiveness. The ground retrieval stations can be set up for US\$7,500.

With all the dire news about fractious republics, economic and environmental decline, there's something here to cheer about. When Russians and Americans cooperate to trade and degrade uranium from the earth and disseminate medical information through space, both for peaceful purposes, we may be witnessing a new world order after all. ♦

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## Our Say...

### Anarchy on the road

A SEMINAR on road accidents in Jordan this week accurately painted the gloomy picture of the traffic situation in the Kingdom, and highlighted the heavy human and material toll these accidents inflict on the country.

In 1990, three hundred and thirty-four people were killed on the road and 10,000 others were injured. In 1991, the number of fatalities increased to 400 and injuries rose by 1000. The material losses are also abundant. The seminar reported that damages caused by car accidents in 1991 amounted to 2.3 per cent of the Kingdom's gross national product; double the rate of any other Third World country.

These figures are alarming enough. But they become more so when it is noted that they are on the increase. Jordan cannot — should not — continue to pay such a heavy price for a situation that can be redressed. And while the government cannot be solely blamed for the traffic anarchy that is plaguing the country, it can definitely exert more effort to ensure safety on the road. The gravity of the situation warrants the formulation of a comprehensive national strategy that would place the issue high on the country's list of priorities.

The government should start by coordinating the activities of the various agencies concerned with vehicle safety issues. The lack of such coordination, as is currently the case, can only render efforts ineffective and lead to the wasting of resources.

The poor condition of roads, the lax enforcement of traffic regulations and the disregard that motorists show for these rules are obviously the cause of most car accidents in Jordan.

A general campaign to improve road conditions must commence immediately. Many accidents could be prevented if roads had clear signs, well-defined lanes and protected pedestrian crossings. While such improvements could be made with minor costs, they could save a great deal of money, a great number of lives.

The Traffic Police Department should also reorganize its priorities. Police officers should stop focusing on minor traffic violations while ignoring major ones. While a motorist who parks in an illegal parking spot for the lack of an alternative is sure to be fined, other reckless drivers too often go unnoticed.

But death will continue to haunt Jordan's roads unless motorists learn to respect traffic regulations and recognize the danger that reckless driving entails. While there should be no leniency with drivers who persist in exposing their and other people's lives to danger, prevention should be emphasized more than punishment and traffic education should be available to all drivers, compulsory in all schools.

The Traffic Police Department might find itself doing the country a greater service if it forced traffic violators to attend courses on safe driving instead of fining them paltry sums that often do little to deter them from repeating their violations.

Safety on the road is a right that no Jordanian should have to live without. Public and private sector resources should be pooled to spare the country the unjustifiable price it is paying for car accidents, and to remove the shadow of death from the road.

## Slovenia, your new European partner

By Marcel Koprol

THROUGHOUT THE course of last year three unfamiliar names emerged: Slovenia, Slavonia and Slovakia. People the world over began to ask themselves, "Where are these countries? Where is Ljubljana, capital city of the newly independent republic of Slovenia?"

As countries and towns now emerge from the pages of history onto the European and world stage, we see that these are no mere bits and pieces of a neglected common entity, but the final result of centuries of oppression, where nations have regained their previously denied identities and freedom.

As Slovenians, we are proud and happy that the world community has accepted us, and are even more happy that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was among the first Arab and Muslim countries to officially recognize our independence and statehood, paving the way for friendly relations.

In the south of Europe, where the Adriatic Sea has carved deepest into the land and where the snow-covered peaks conceal the sight of this sea and hinder access to it — in a pleasant triangle between the Alpine, Mediterranean and Pannonian regions, the Slovenes have existed for at least one and a half millennia.

Charles the Great, Napoleon and Franz Josef were our emperors. We once had our own princes and principality, and struggled with the Hapsburg throne. Italians and Germans, Hungarians and Yugoslavs have tried to conquer and conven us. Without our own aristocracy, without an army, and with only our language and poets, our courage and pride, could we survive through critical times.

A nation of two million, in a land twice the size of Lebanon, we have a distinctive and clear identity, with 3000 churches and a rich artistic heritage. Today we have nine theaters, 70 publishing houses and 250 fine arts establishments, although until last year we had no capital or state.

Observers of Eastern Europe claim that Slovenia has an advantage over the other former communist states, due to its relatively open borders with the West during communist rule. This also played an important role in the political and economic opening up of Slovenia to the world.

The Republic of Slovenia now borders Italy to the west, Austria to the north, Hungary to the northeast and the Republic of Croatia to the east and south. Border crossings are numerous and well utilized. Our borders have always been open, not only to the free flow of visitors and businessmen, but also to ideas, information, innovations, goods and services.

Because of this, plus the fact that our economy was never as centralized as that of other Eastern European countries, economic restructuring is likely to be less painful in Slovenia. The results after one year of independence prove that.

Today's economy consists of as many as 12,000 enterprises, 90 per cent of which are small to medium in size. More than two-thirds are privately owned, and close to 700 are corporately owned. The new wave of dynamism has been reflected in the number of new enterprises formed daily over past months. Industrial activity is the strongest sector of the Slovene economy, contributing 55 per cent to the Gross National Product. The most important industries are: Production of electrical appliances, and machinery, metal processing,

certain branches of electronics, machine building, automobile production, textiles and garments, leather, wood processing and furniture, pharmaceuticals and chemistry. The second most important economic sector is trade, followed by transport, communications and construction.

Because of its geographical setting, Slovenia has historically directed the bulk of its trade towards the West. Slovenia sells almost 56 per cent of its production to its own territory, the rest being exported. Our yearly exports reach \$6 billion, and our main trading partners are Germany, Italy, France, Austria and the US. This impressive result has only been achieved because 47.5 per cent of the total population is economically active. Another important characteristic is the large participation of women in the labor force. In most families there are two "breadwinners", substantially increasing the Slovene standard of living.

The first impression of every newcomer to Slovenia is the greenness of the landscape, because half of our young state — over a million hectares — is covered by forest. Only twenty kilometers from the capital Ljubljana, with its 320,000 inhabitants, majestic city center and broad pedestrian avenues, a skilled hunter will be able to show you a real bear at large.

Triglav, our highest Alpine peak, is not extremely high at 2864 meters, but dominates the countryside divinely. Above her is the mountain sky with its countless Mediterranean shades, below the 15,000 underground caves, some of them up to 1000 meters deep and 20 kilometers long. This is why Slovenia's tourist sector is another important part of the national economy.

Slovenia offers the tourist a very rich program, from seaside holidays to sports and mountain excursions, discovering caves, disappearing lakes and submerged rivers. Towns can be visited as well as the countryside, to enjoy genuine local fare, hunting, fishing, kayak sailing, golf, aviation sports, skiing and more.

Slovene health resort tourism is of top quality and has been developed over centuries, for the curing of numerous illnesses. There are 14 health resorts throughout the country, where one can cure different illnesses such as cardiac, digestive, gynecological, kidney and internal gland problems, or respiratory organ diseases, rheumatic and neurological illnesses and post-injury conditions. There are also beauty, slimming and other courses required by the modern person. Slovene health resorts are set in lovely sites within a green, forested environment, that offers enormous possibilities for relaxation, walks and a variety of sports.

I sincerely hope that after reading this article, that those who come to visit us on the "sunny side of the Alps", where we offer friendship and co-operation to all, will be able to distinguish between Slovenia and Slavonia, or the other regions in former Yugoslavia with whom we once lived. Please come and visit us, your new European partners, waiting to establish mutually fruitful relations.

The writer is former senior diplomat and Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs for the Republic of Slovenia, a prominent commentator on Middle Eastern economic and political affairs and one of the directors of the Middle Eastern market of Lesina Foreign Trade Co Ltd, Slovenia's leading engineering company for hotel and hospital projects.

# Creating a well-fed world

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has selected food and nutrition as the theme of World Food Day on 16 October 1992

By Fabrisio Fontemaggi

ROME — AS yet another UN commemorative day draws near, the message comes across loud and clear. While the media is dominated by starvation in Africa and food queues in Bosnia, it is sobering to remember that in the world at large, there is and there ought to be enough food for all. Why, then, are more than 780 million people world-wide chronically undernourished? Poverty is the main cause, followed by the deteriorating environment, says FAO, the UN's chief agency concerned with food.

"The rapid increase in the world population during the past 50 years, and the accelerated pace of technological progress, have resulted in the taming of nature in some parts of the world at the risk of its destruction," explains Edouard Saouma, director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organization, in *Sustainable Development and the Environment*, a review of FAO policies and actions in the two decades prior to the Rio summit.

"It is imperative," he says, "that we determine the thresholds of tolerance for human interference, and the extent to which agriculture and nature can interact acceptably. The first priority is to feed the world's population."

Malnutrition in some form exists in every country, whether rich or poor. A fifth or more of people in developing countries don't get enough to eat. Many more don't get the right variety of foods and suffer from dietary deficiencies.

For some, achieving good nutrition is simple: Adopt a healthy, well-balanced diet. For others, this apparently easy solution is far out of reach: Poverty, unemployment, food shortages, poor sanitary conditions, overcrowding in urban areas and a host of other obstacles remain in their way.

It is precisely to draw attention to such problems and to mobilize effective action in the search for solutions that the FAO has dedicated World Food Day on 16 October to *Food and Nutrition*. The UN officials in Rome hope that current crises in Africa and eastern Europe will help draw attention to the day's observance.

Backed though it sounds, the language of common sense still has to sink in on a global scale. Ensuring food security means guaranteeing all people at all times access to enough good quality, safe food to lead a healthy, productive life. But that goal cannot be met simply by producing more food. If people cannot afford the food that is available, if their diets lack essential vitamins and minerals, if poor handling during processing and distribution makes their food unsafe to eat, then they do not enjoy food security.

Achieving food security means adopting broad programs that go beyond the agricultural sector. These programs must also aim to reduce poverty, look at environmental conditions and address inequities in international trade. Supporting economic development that benefits the poor and malnourished is vital. To this end, FAO officials say the agency works with governments to formulate and implement comprehensive national food security programs that:

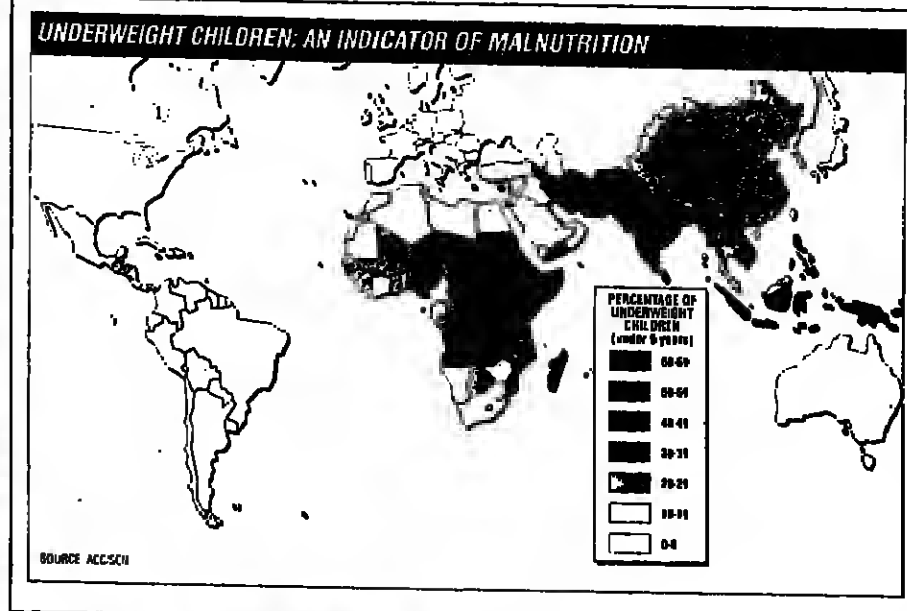
- Promote sustainable food production
- Generate incomes
- Strengthen marketing capabilities
- Improve food storage and processing at the household and community levels
- Ensure disaster prevention and relief
- Provide direct support to people who lack food security.

A healthy diet provides the energy and the essential ingredients: carbohydrates, fat, protein, vitamins and minerals — that the body needs to grow and function properly. Micronutrients are usually only required in minute quantities, but deficiencies can have a serious and far-reaching impact on health and development. Because they don't get enough Vitamin A, at least 500,000 children become partially or totally blind each year. Two-thirds of them die within a few months of losing their sight. Iodine deficiency can cause goitre and cretinism; in infants, it interferes with brain development and can lead to irreversible mental retardation. Iron deficiency causes anaemia,

which may affect approximately 2,000 million people worldwide and be associated with 20 per cent of maternal deaths in developing countries. Through its Vitamin A Program and other activities, FAO is helping to prevent micronutrient deficiencies.

Home gardens and improved storage methods help make micro-nutrient-rich foods available throughout the year. Nutrition education programs encourage people to make these foods a regular part of their diet.

From 5-11 December this year, FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) will host the International Conference on Nutrition, the first global intergovernmental conference reserved solely for issues related to health and nutrition. The conference aims to encourage governments to place nutrition high on their



national agendas and give improved nutrition a higher priority in development. Edouard Saouma asks: "If, as we believe, we now know what needs to be done or not done, technically speaking, why have we failed to eliminate these problems?" He admits: "It is primarily because we have attempted to deal with the symptoms rather than the underlying causes. The real enemies are poverty and social

inequality." In selecting *Food and Nutrition* as the theme of World Food Day 1992, FAO reaffirms the first priority set out when the organization was founded on October 16, 47 years ago — "raising levels of nutrition and standards of living" as a step toward "ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger. Fabrisio Fontemaggi is a researcher and writer based in Rome.

Academic File

## World's biggest resettlement scheme goes private

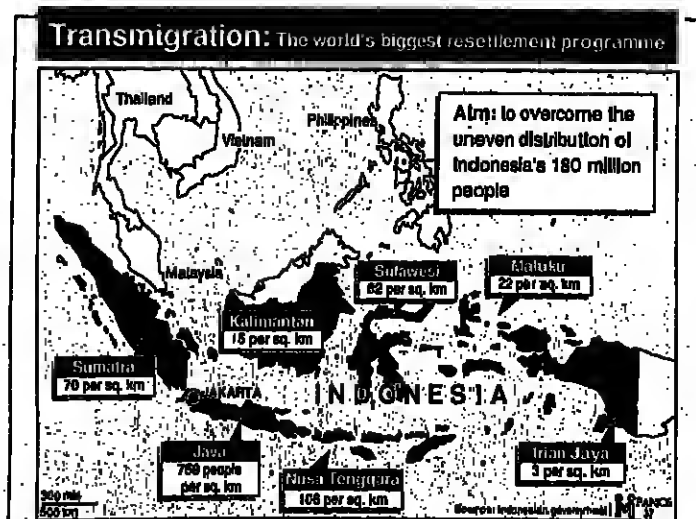
By Dewi Sartika

JAKARTA: CRITICISM of Indonesia's giant transmigration program — the largest resettlement project in the world — has been muted since international complaints forced the World Bank to limit its support to the improvement of existing sites rather than the funding of new ones. But the controversial policy is still alive, with a new face, new methods and new forms of funding.

Transmigration's basic aim was to move people from the densely populated island of Java (750 people per square kilometer) to the less populated outer islands. Irian Jaya in the east, for example, has only 3 people per square kilometer.

After years of sponsored emigration, however, in which 1.5 million people have already been re-located, the Javanese still form almost 70 per cent of the country's 180 million population, partly because migration into Java continues at a rapid rate. Inward migration is encouraged by the better education and job opportunities found in Java — which received three-quarters of all foreign investment between 1965 and 1986.

The government insists that the transmigration program is voluntarily carried out, but much of the criticism has centered on the severe social and environmental impact of moving hundreds of thousands of people. Before





# Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

Tournage

## Coup de zoom sur Pétra

La cité nabatéenne, fleuron du patrimoine mondial est sélectionnée par l'UNESCO pour faire l'objet d'un "52 minutes". Le réalisateur français Olivier Descamps et son équipe, viennent de quitter Pétra après quinze jours de tournage

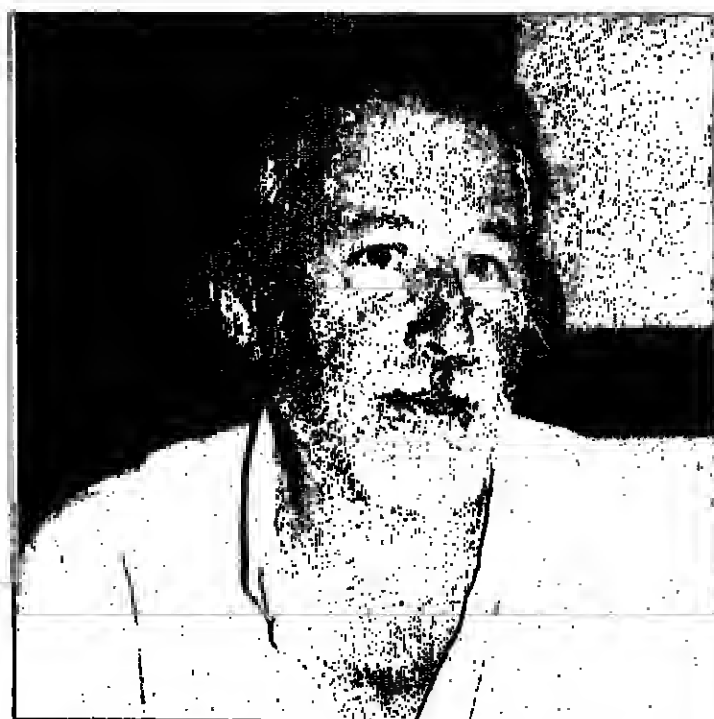
OLIVIER DESCAMPS, réalisateur français vient de tomber amoureux de Pétra. Ce coup de cœur, il va s'efforcer de le faire partager, à travers un documentaire de 52 minutes. "J'ai rencontré Pétra pour la première fois il y a trois mois, une atmosphère se dégage de ce lieu", confie le réalisateur. Après quinze jours de tournage, Olivier Descamps sort des sentiers battus. Magnifique, formidable, extraordinaire, disent les multiples visiteurs qui rivalisent de superlatifs. Pour le patron de Modom Productions, "ce n'est pas ça qui est important". Et d'ajouter, "En fait on peut se sentir bien dans ce lieu ou bien se sentir oppressé".

Caméra et Superpuma

Le "52 minutes" en est au stade des rushes: huit heures de bobine au total pour un résultat huit fois plus court. Budget: 400.000 dollars. Le tournage s'est passé dans les meilleures conditions. L'équipe de cinq personnes a bénéficié d'un soutien logistique hors du commun de la part du ministère du Tourisme jordanien. Entre autres facilités, Olivier Descamps a pu transporter sa caméra dans les hauteurs, grâce à un hélicoptère Superpuma, gracieusement cédé par l'armée du royaume.

Par ailleurs, la télévision jordanienne, partenaire du projet, a mis à disposition un guide et technicien. Son rôle: servir de pont entre l'équipe de tournage et la population bédouine. Ce film fait partie d'une série de productions commandées par l'UNESCO, organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Éducation, la Science et la Culture. France 3, la troisième chaîne de télévision française récemment rebaptisée, coproduit ce "documentaire de création". France 3 met une équipe technique à disposition et doit apporter son concours dans la finition.

Pétra est la deuxième étape après la Médina de Fès (Maroc).



Olivier Descamps

Au total, l'UNESCO a sélectionné douze lieux du patrimoine mondial: Quito en Équateur, les Routes Mayas au Mexique, Delphes en Grèce, le temple d'Abou Simbel en Égypte. "Le but de la série est de faire connaître au monde entier les lieux qui sont les bases des cultures", affirme Olivier Descamps. Et de préciser: "Ce film ne sera pas didactique, il s'agit de dire aux gens, regardez et soyez sensibles." Selon le réalisateur, "à Pétra, il faut s'asseoir deux heures sur un rocher et les passer au soleil". Est-ce la ligne directrice du documentaire? Il est encore trop tôt pour le savoir.

Cela fait maintenant trois mois que ce projet est sur les rails. Après le tournage, le réalisateur va se consacrer au montage: un long travail de quatre semaines. Restera ensuite à coller le texte et la musique. Pour le commentaire, Olivier Descamps veut faire appel à celui qu'il considère comme

"le spécialiste de Pétra". Il s'agit de Fawzi Zayadine, collaborateur du Département des Antiquités. Monique Vacarissas sera chargée de superviser ce travail.

Le nom du musicien compositeur n'a pas encore été défini. Un Jordanien? Apparemment non. "Cette série est destinée à être diffusée dans le monde entier, la musique doit être internationale et pas trop typique", affirme Olivier Descamps.

Le film a été tourné en Super 16, format qui permet tous les types de diffusion: au cinéma, à la télévision, en vidéo et en TVHD (télévision Haute Définition). Trois versions sont prévues: en français, en anglais et en arabe. Cette dernière mouture sera réalisée par le service des programmes de la Télévision jordanienne. Olivier Descamps a l'ambition de vendre la série aux plus grandes télévisions du monde. La sortie est prévue pour 1994.

France Mazoyer

MONDIAL DE L'AUTOMOBILE



Télex... Jordanie

**ACCIDENTS** - Le nombre d'accidents de la route mortels en Jordanie est en baisse: il s'élève à 400 pour la seule année 1991, selon le rapport du président de la "Société Jordanienne pour la prévention des accidents de la route" lors d'un séminaire dimanche à Amman. Ce chiffre n'était que de 344 en 1990. Le nombre de blessés a augmenté de 1.000 au cours de cette même période. Les dégâts dus à ces accidents sont estimés à 53 millions de JD pour 1991, l'équivalent de 2,3% du PNB jordanien.

**CHOMAGE** - Le taux de chômage de la Jordanie doit passer, de 14,4% à 15,2% d'ici à 1995, selon un rapport de la Royal Scientific Society (RSS). Ce phénomène serait dû à la hausse de la population et à l'arrivée récente en Jordanie d'une vague de 300.000 rapatriés du Golfe. Parmi les recommandations du rapporteur, Dr Amireh, figurent en bonne place une hausse des investissements, un contrôle plus strict de la main-d'œuvre étrangère et un encouragement aux Jordanais pour travailler à l'étranger...

**MANIF** - Les organisations féministes de Jordanie ont participé à un sit-in dimanche devant les bureaux d'Amman du Comité International de la Croix Rouge (CICR). Objectif: exprimer leur soutien vis-à-vis de 17.000 prisonniers palestiniens dans les prisons israéliennes. Ces derniers observent une grève de la faim depuis le 27 septembre pour tenter d'obtenir une amélioration de leurs conditions de détention.

**HANDICAPES** - La CESAO, commission régionale des Nations Unies basée à Amman, organise un "événement culturel" pour les handicapés les 17 et 18 octobre au Centre culturel Royal (CCR). Au cours d'une session plénière, les participants vont tenter d'établir une stratégie à long terme pour leur intégration dans la société. Des compétitions sportives, des activités culturelles (musique, théâtre, exposition) seront au programme.

**CANCER** - Les conseils municipaux jordanais ont fait preuve de générosité en donnant 250.000 JD pour la construction du Centre Amal. La semaine dernière, la campagne nationale contre le cancer, lancée par la GUVS a rapporté 4 millions de dinars sur les 14 nécessaires pour la construction de ce centre spécialisé.

A VOIR...

**EXPO** - Nadim, peintre et sculpteur irakien jusqu'au samedi 24 octobre au CCF. La peinture de Nadim est celle qui nous rappelle que la vraie peinture est faite pour agir sur notre sensibilité, et qu'elle n'a pas pour objet de provoquer le plaisir mais l'émotion.

**CINEMA** - "Le mois de je" au CCF est un cycle consacré aux documentaires. Lundi 19 octobre à 20h00, Lettres d'amour de Somalie (1982), de Frédéric Mitterrand. C'est un journal de voyage dans ce pays au cours de l'été 1981. Le commentaire concis, brillant, mais désespéré dit par le réalisateur accompagne les images d'une Somalie déchirée par la guerre.

Séminaire

## Les réfugiés sous observation

Un programme d'études et un séminaire à l'Université de Yarmouk vont bientôt se focaliser sur le problème crucial des réfugiés et des personnes déplacées dans la région

LE DOSSIER réfugiés dans la région n'est pas encore refermé. Loin s'en faut. Dernière initiative annoncée: le "Programme d'études sur les Réfugiés et les Personnes Déplacées" (RDSP) de l'Université de Yarmouk organisera un séminaire sur le problème des réfugiés dans la région. L'antenne d'Amman du Haut Commissariat aux Réfugiés (UNHCR) fera profiter de son expérience reconnue en la matière, en apportant une coopération technique et financière. Le séminaire placé sous le haut patronage du prince héritier Hassan, qui devrait participer à la séance d'ouverture, se tiendra à Irbid du 25 au 27 octobre 1992.

Programme d'études

La Jordanie a connu dans son histoire récente plusieurs vagues de réfugiés palestiniens: en 1948, avec la première guerre israélo-arabe et la création de l'État d'Israël; en 1967, après l'invasion de la Cisjordanie et de la Bande de Gaza. Plus récemment, la guerre du Golfe a obligé 300.000 Palestiniens à quitter leur pays d'accueil et à se réfugier en Jordanie.

Pour faire face à cette dure réalité, un cours pratique pour fonctionnaires jordanais confrontés au problème des réfugiés avait été envisagé. Son but: former ce personnel travaillant sur le terrain aux concepts de base tels que le droit d'asile, les droits de l'homme... Puis ce projet s'est transformé en un véritable programme d'études et de recherche permanent sur tous les aspects de la question: le RDSP de l'Université d'Irbid.

Le RDSP ne manque pas d'ambition. Ses objectifs sont nombreux et cherchent à faire reconnaître par tous les acteurs de la région le problème des réfugiés et des personnes déplacées à l'intérieur de leur pays ou d'un pays à un autre. Sans omettre les apatrides.

Les maîtres-mots

Recherche, coopération et formation sont les maîtres-mots de ce nouveau programme de l'Université de Yarmouk. Le premier projet de recherche portera sur les implications de la crise du Golfe sur la Jordanie et sur la région tout entière. Il sera axé en priorité sur l'analyse des différents déplacements de population et sur leurs implications légales et sociales.

L'accent sera également mis sur le problème fondamental des droits de l'homme. Ces recherches feront appel à toutes les parties concernées par la question (les universitaires, les politiques, les

partenaires sociaux) pour que l'ensemble des informations disponibles soient accessibles à tous et que les avis et les expériences puissent être échangés. Des ateliers pratiques et des conférences formeront et informeront sur des sujets particuliers tels que "les Principes de la Loi Internationale sur les Réfugiés". Ce sera le thème d'une session de formation à venir. Un centre de documentation et une banque de données permettront une meilleure circulation des informations et seront à la disposition de tous les intéressés.

Le séminaire de ce mois d'octobre constitue la première manifestation organisée par le RDSP. Il est supervisé par le docteur Bachir Al-Khadra, doyen de la section économique et administrative de l'Université de Yarmouk, et financé par le Haut Commissariat aux Réfugiés des Nations Unies (UNHCR). Trente-cinq intervenants sont attendus lors des trois journées de travail. Des universitaires mais également des membres d'organisations internationales, nationales et gouvernementales prendront la parole. Selon M. Janvier de Riedmatten, représentant de l'antenne d'Amman du UNHCR, le séminaire sera centré essentiellement sur les aspects légaux du problème des réfugiés et des personnes déplacées. "L'asile existe traditionnellement dans la religion islamique. Mais à chaque fois qu'il y a eu des réfugiés, ces cas ont été traités de manière ad hoc. Il est maintenant nécessaire de codifier ce droit à l'asile", explique-t-il.

Comment le séminaire va-t-il s'articuler? "Dans un premier temps, nous ferons une présentation des structures et des instruments établis par la Communauté Internationale pour assister les réfugiés", déclare M. de Riedmatten.

### Le retour des Palestiniens et des Jordaniens installés depuis des années dans les pays du Golfe. La Communauté Internationale n'avait pas de réponse

ten, La Déclaration Universelle des Droits de l'Homme et du Citoyen, la Convention des Nations Unies de 1951 et le Protocole de 1967 relatif au statut des réfugiés constituent certains de ces instruments. "Il nous faudra ensuite confronter ces structures et ces instruments aux situations qui sont apparues ces derniers temps dans la région. Sont-ils encore d'actualité?", poursuit le repré-



Janvier de Riedmatten, de l'UNHCR

sentant du UNHCR.

Si la question est posée, c'est bien évidemment qu'un fossé s'est creusé entre des textes théoriques qui datent et des situations nouvelles qui n'avaient pas été prévues. Le séminaire devra donc étudier le moyen de réduire ce

diver ce genre de problème dans la législation internationale?", s'exclame M. de Riedmatten. Autres exemples: la Yougoslavie et la Somalie où des personnes ont été déplacées en raison de la guerre civile et des conflits ethniques, "des situations dans lesquelles les Nations Unies avaient toujours évité de se mêler".

Les interventions au cours du séminaire auront lieu pour la plupart en arabe. Cependant, le premier jour, une interprétation simultanée sera offerte aux non-arabophones. En outre, cette première journée de travail sera essentiellement consacrée à la présentation des différentes organisations internationales confrontées au problème des réfugiés: à savoir le Haut Commissariat aux Réfugiés (UNHCR), l'UNRWA (agence des Nations Unies consacrée uniquement aux réfugiés palestiniens), le Comité International de la Croix Rouge (CICR) et l'International Organization for Migration (IOM). Mais ce séminaire n'est que la première étape d'un long programme de recherche à venir.

Michèle Rieux

L'EDITO

Renaissance de l'Intifada

LA GREVE de la faim dans les camps d'emprisonnement des Territoires-occupés a dévoilé une situation unique dans les annales du système carcéral. Indépendamment du caractère illégal de la détention administrative, les conditions de vie des milliers de prisonniers politiques palestiniens ont atteint des dimensions rarement égalées. Les prisons israéliennes n'ont jamais rien à envier aux camps de concentration de l'ex-Yugoslavie.

Les Israéliens ont fait de ces camps un exemple frappant de ce que la génération précédente a dû subir sous le nazisme. L'isolement total des prisonniers et le maintien dans le désert, sans aucun contact avec le monde extérieur (visites, journaux, radios), s'ajoutant au refus israélien de leur accorder des procès équitables, a fini par faire exploser la marmite.

Le calcul israélien a eu un effet totalement négatif. En tentant, à travers ces camps d'amputer l'Intifada de son leadership, le soulèvement palestinien a repris de plus belle.

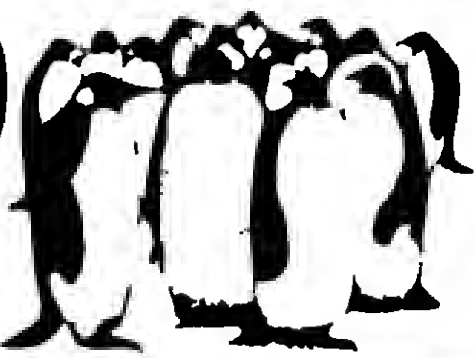
Malgré l'isolement, les détenus politiques sont parvenus à garder un contact quasi-direct avec la rue en Cisjordanie ou à Gaza. Devant l'explosion des masses palestiniennes, Israël a adopté une double position: d'un côté Rabin a donné carte blanche à Tshahal pour rétablir "l'ordre" dans les Territoires. Dans le même temps, le Premier ministre israélien a lancé une offensive de charme pour contrecarrer les protestations locales et internationales. Les grilles des camps ont été ouvertes pour la première fois aux caméras et aux reporters.

La propagande israélienne visait à doubler toutes les tentatives d'exploitation arabe de ce dossier autour de la table des négociations de Washington. Une crainte sans fondement apparent, car aucun pays arabe n'oserait en contrepartie, ouvrir ses barreaux aux observateurs.

La manœuvre habile, suivie de quelques concessions, arrive tardivement. L'Intifada a fini par prouver que son leadership n'était pas pour autant dilué. Qu'il pouvait diriger la lutte de l'intérieur. Que quelques barreaux ne suffiraient pas pour stopper le mouvement.



# AROUND TOWN



**Congratulations!**  
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....

Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.



● A Turkish festival was held last week at the Hotel InterContinental. The event included a Turkish folk singer with six dancers and four musicians, a belly dancer, Turkish cooks, a handicraft exhibition and a fashion show with six models, who revealed the latest fashion designs.

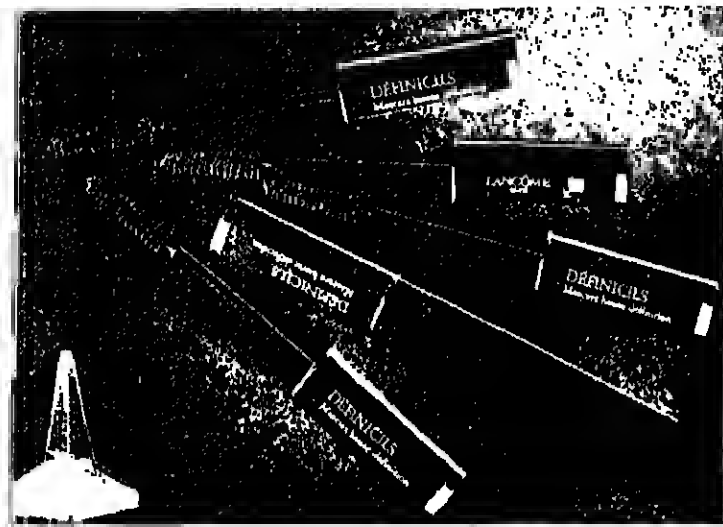
My dear king:

● This is the first time that I write to a king, so I don't really know how to begin. I hope your health is improving, and that you're feeling much better now. I was so worried about you when you sat on the top of the car, but thank the mighty Lord, everything went just fine. I knew you were so happy because I could see the tears in your eyes. It was such a touching scene that it makes me thank God for your safe return.

From Hassan, on behalf of all the students at Al Ma'arif School.

● The Royal Automobile Club held its annual small car race last Friday with 46 contestants. The race was held on a track in a speed test against the clock. The event, sponsored by OKIPAX, witnessed racing competition between participants for the fastest car to beat the clock. The driver who did just that was Ghaffar Bilel, who drove a Toyota Starlet, with a clock time of 2:4:28. Ranking in second place was Zaid Bilbel, also driving a Toyota Starlet, with a clock time of 2:9:76. Fu'ad Agha came in third with his Daihatsu Charade GTI, with a clock time of 2:12:23.

● Friday 16 October will see a children's festival and parade to mark the First Jordanian Children's Theater Festival. The parade will march from the Royal Cultural Center through to the Housing Bank Center, and will end at the King Abdullah Gardens. There will be different groups, music, drinks and food, and Jordanian artists will participate. Fees are JD 1 including T-Shirt.



● Last Wednesday, the Ibrahim and Khaled Abu Shakra Trading Establishment held a promotional press conference for Lancôme Definiçils, the new high definition mascara, at the Marriott Hotel.

Ms Beverly Billington, representative for the Dubai-based Parmobel Ltd, said that Definiçils is the latest mascara in Europe, and is the only mascara to contain bio-selective polymers. It also comes in four shades: Blue, green, black, and brown. This revolutionary product is elegantly packaged and includes a specially patented wand which lengthens, separates and defines eyelashes.

Ibrahim and Khaled Abu Shakra also launched 'Loulou' last week, the latest fragrance from French designer Cacharel. Ms Billington described Loulou as "a modern fragrance for the independent woman, which envelops the skin with a powdery perfume." A sophisticated scent, Loulou is a mature fragrance which is especially suitable for evening wear. The conference was attended by Mr Fadi Jbeur, the sales manager of Parmobel Company, and a number of local journalists.

Both products are available at the Abu Shakra gift Centres in Um Uthaina and Jabel Hussain.

● Following the success of 'Let's Dance and Love', which toured the region earlier this year, producers Laura Fausner and Duncan Straton of Performance International are back with a brand new smash hit West End comedy play 'An Evening With Gary Liner' by Arthur Smith and Chris England. The play, which is currently running in London's West End, will be performed at the Philadelphia Hotel, Amman on the 12th, 13th and 14th of November.

The play stars the hugely popular British actor Leslie Grantham, who is known to millions for his role as Dirty Den in the BBC soap opera 'Eastenders'.

The tour is sponsored by Emirates Airlines and Silk Cut, and the performances at the Philadelphia Hotel are part of a Gulfwide tour. The play will also visit the following hotels:

-Dubai International: 31st October and 1st and 2nd November.  
-Al Bustan Palace Hotel, Mus-

cat: 8th and 9th November.

Sheraton Hotel, Bahrain, 18th and 19th November.

The action of the play takes place in a hotel room in Majorca where Bill (Leslie Grantham), a successful publisher who is obsessed with football, and Monica, Bill's long suffering wife (played by leading Welsh actress Helen Griffiths) are joined by an odd assortment of characters to watch the 1990 World Cup semi-final between England and Germany.

Performance International Producers Laura Fausner and Duncan Straton would like to meet any Gary Liner "lookalikes" who would be interested in being part of this very exciting production. The "Liner lookalike" appears on-stage in the finale of the production. If you are interested in being considered for the role come along and meet Laura and Duncan who will audition possible "Garys" at the Philadelphia Hotel on the 11th November from 8-9 pm.

## Dial A Boarding Pass, Telephone Check-In

KLM ROYAL Dutch Airlines has introduced an innovative check-in service that saves time at check-in counters at Queen Alia International Airport. This service has been introduced at several airports served by KLM in the Middle East and South Asia. Under this service, KLM staff will contact customers a day before departure, and get information with regards to seat preference,

number of bags and final destination. This information will enable Airport staff to reproduce boarding passes and baggage labels as well as the boarding pass of the onward connection if applicable. On the day of travel, passengers arrive at check-in counters to deliver their baggage, collect their boarding passes in no time, and off they proceed to immigration.

## United Airlines to launch 'Round-The-World' service

THE AIRLINE that is uniting the world will do just that with a single route when United Airlines launches its new daily 'Round-The-World-Service', which will commence 10 February. Each day, two flights: 'United One' (westbound) and 'United Two' (eastbound), will circle around the world, to New York, London, Delhi, Hong Kong, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The eastbound flight begins in Los Angeles and stops in New York, London, Delhi, Hong Kong and San Francisco before returning to Los Angeles. The westbound service, which starts on 11 February, follows the Los Angeles-San Francisco-Hong

kong-Delhi-London-New York-Los Angeles routing. United's new Round-The-World service will also mark the airline's first ever entry into Delhi, India.

The last airline to offer travelers a Round The-World-Service was Pan-Am, which last flew the route in 1982. United obtained the route as part of its acquisition of the London Heathrow hub and other assets of Pan American World Airways in 1991. It is worthy to mention that United will operate the transcontinental portions of the Round-The-World service with state-of-the-art Boeing 747-400 and Boeing 767-300ER aircraft.

## Agenda

### FILMS:

● The American Center will be presenting video shows of the US presidential debates between George Bush and Bill Clinton, and also the vice presidential debate between Dan Quayle and Al Gore. The presidential debates will be shown on 18 and 20 October, at the US auditorium, at the American Embassy in Abdoun.

● The American Center will also be showing movies at the auditorium. Tuesday 20 October will be 'High Noon', starring Gary Cooper. This thrilling film is about a marshal's encounter with the bad and evil.

● Also showing on Tuesday, 20 October, is ABC's News Weekly Highlights, and the MacNeil Leher news hour.

### EXHIBITIONS:

● The Goethe Institute, in co-operation with the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents, presents 'Nightmare Car' on 18 October. The exhibition will run for two days.

● Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the Amman Marriott Hotel and the American Centre of Oriental Research will be holding an exhibition of photographs. Entitled 'Petra', this photo-exhibition was made possible by the cameras of Jane Taylor, the late Kenneth Russell, Vivian Ronay and Wilson and Eleanor Myers. It will be opened on 18 October, from 6:00 to 8:30 pm at the Amman Marriott Hotel. The photographs have been donated by a group of friends of the late Dr Kenneth Russell. Jane Taylor (author of 'High Above Jordan'), Gaetano Palumbo, Marguerite Van Geldermarsen, Vivian Ronay, and Wilson and Eleanor Myers. There are also two aerial photo-

graphs by Kenneth Russell. All proceeds from the sale of photographs will be donated to the Kenneth Wayne Russell Memorial Trust, which was established by ACOR in the memory of Dr Russell. It will be used to provide scholarships for higher education in archaeology and related fields for residents of Jordan; to provide travel fellowships to students of any nationality who wish to conduct archaeological and related research in Jordan; and to provide assistance for the education of the Bidul bedouin of Petra.

● In celebration of the Columbus Quincentary, the American Center is holding a book exhibit entitled 'Old world, New world'. The exhibit consists of 80 reference and children's books reflecting the newest non-fiction, fiction and art materials. The exhibit, which was opened on 5 October, will continue to be displayed through 22 October.

● Under the patronage of the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, Mr Mehmet Ali Iremelik, The Alia Art Gallery is opening an exhibition of paintings, previously exhibited at the Turkish National Museum of Fine Arts, by the Jordanian artist Ibrahim Al Shalabi. The event will take place today, Thursday, 15 October at 5:30 pm, at the Alia Art Gallery.

### LECTURES:

● 'Children between two cultures' is the title of Dr Joel Salem's lecture, to be held at the Goethe Institute on Saturday, 17 October. The lecture tackles important issues in the education of children whose parents come from two different cultures.

● On Monday, 19 October at 6:00 pm, the American Center invites you to attend a lecture by Ms Iris Miller, professor of architecture, landscape and urban design at the Catholic University in Washington DC. Ms Miller will lecture on 'The American landscape, its roots and transformation'.

● A fund-raising "Telethon"—a televised phone-in to raise donations for the JD14 million Al Amal Cancer Center project—was aired last Friday on JTV. The program, which started at 10:30 am, is estimated to have raised JD4 million. Many donors, however, have yet to fulfill their pledges to the center.

The Star 648 - 298

# The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on Jordan Television from 17 to 23 October

## ENGLISH PROGRAM

### SATURDAY

8:30 — America's Funniest Home Videos  
9:00 — Perspective  
9:30 — Varieties  
10:00 — News in English  
10:20 — Feature Film, 'Nasty Boys', Starring Gray Harle. A murder mystery based on corruption and drug dealing.

### SUNDAY

8:30 — Coach  
9:10 — Documentary, 'Fragile Earth: The Secret City'. A documentary about the deadly radiation caused by a Russian nuclear plant.  
10:00 — News in English  
10:20 — Midnight Caller

### MONDAY

8:30 — The Powers That Be  
9:10 — A Fine Romance  
10:00 — News in English  
10:20 — The Gravy Train

### TUESDAY

8:30 — The Golden Girls  
9:30 — Fax  
10:00 — News in English  
10:20 — When the Lion Roars. A documentary about MGM after the depression era, and the famous films that were produced during that time.

### WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Saved By The Bell  
9:30 — Cluedo  
10:00 — News in English  
10:20 — Bangkok Hilton

## Pop Singles

1. End of the Road, Boyz II Men, Motown
2. Humppin' Around, Bobby Brown, MCA
3. Some Times Love Just Ain't Enough, Patty Smyth, MC
4. Stay, Shakespear's Sister, London
5. Jump Around, House of Pain, Tommy Boy
6. Baby-Baby-Baby, TLC, Arista
7. November Rain, Guns N' Roses, Geffen
8. She's Playing Hard To Get, Hi-Five, RCA
9. Just Another Day, John Secada, SBK
10. Please Don't Go, KWS, London

## THURSDAY

8:30 — Uncle Buck  
9:10 — Civil Wars  
10:00 — News in English  
10:20 — Movie of the Week, 'Farrel for the People', starring Valerie Harper, Ed O'Neill, Farrel, a young female prosecutor, succeeds in indicting a famous novelist for murdering a waiter.

## FRIDAY

8:30 — Too Close for Comfort  
9:10 — Nonni and Manni  
10:00 — News Cluedo, 9:30 on Wednesday in English  
10:20 — The Antagonists  
11:10 — Mr Bean

## FRENCH PROGRAM

### SAMEDI

6:00 — Au Clair de Lune  
6:05 — Les Aventures du Bosco  
6:40 — Opération Mozart  
7:00 — News in French  
7:15 — Fenêtre Sur. A local program.

### DIMANCHE

5:30 — Rêves D'Enfants  
5:37 — Jeux Sans Frontières

## Top Video Rentals

1. Medicine Man, Sean Connery, Lorraine Bracco, Hollywood Home Video.
2. Fried Green Tomatoes, Kathy Bates, Jessica Tandy, MCA/Universal Home Video.
3. White Men Can't Jump, Woody Harrelson, Wesley Snipes, Fox Video.
4. The Hand that Rocks the Cradle, Anabella Sciorra, Rebecca DeMornay, Warner Home Video.
5. The Lawnmower Man, Pierce Brosnan, Jeff Fahey, Columbia Tristar Home Video.
6. The Prince of Tides, Barbra Streisand, Nick Nolte, Columbia TriStar Home Video.
7. Wayne's World, Mike Myers, Danna Gravey, Paramount Home Video.
8. Final Analysis, Richard Gere, Kim Basinger, Warner Home Video (R-1992)
9. Memories of an Invisible Man, Chevy Chase, Darl Hannah.
10. The Mambo Kings, Armando Assante, Antonio Banderas, Warner Home Video (R-1992)

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# HOROSCOPE

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



ARIES (21 March-19 April): You'll be at your best the first part of this week. If you have a game scheduled you'll win.

TAURUS (20 April-20 May): A roommate could try to throw his or her weight around. If you feel your territory's being encroached upon, say something.

GEMINI (21 May-20 June): Your confidence level will be very high. Write essays, practice sports activities.

CANCER (21 June-22 July): Watch your money the first of the week. You'll have a strong urge to spend it on something.

LEO (23 July-22 August): The world is your oyster. Cram as many things as possible into your schedule. Get organized.

VIRGO (23 August-22 October): The first part of the week, a foe for some kind of equipment could destroy your budget.

LIBRA (23 September-22 October): Club meetings will be a lot more fun than work. A person you run into at one of them could turn out to be a steady date.

SCORPIO (23 October-21 November): This week will get better for you as it goes along. One of your bosses may be downright insufferable.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November-21 December): If you're an athlete, you'll love the first two days of this week. That's when you'll be most effective.

CAPRICORN (22 December-19 January): If you're involved in a business scheme with somebody else, be careful. The other person might be an item you don't want, and can't afford.

AQUARIUS (20 January-18 February): You're most likely to meet an interesting person if you go to an activity that involves travel or sports.

PISCES (19 February-20 March): You may not feel you've achieved the quality level you want. That's because your ideas of perfection and your present level of ability are a little out of synch.

# Dining Out



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